THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Centre for Develpment of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), an autonomous registered Society under the Department of Electronics exhibited its second generation Parallel Supercomputer PARAM 9000 in the Supercomputing 94 exhibition held at Washington from November 14—18, 1994.

(b) The prices of Supercomputers largely depend upon the configuration to meet the requirement of the users Also vendors of Supercomputers decide the end user price on a case to case basis. Initial pricing information offered by vendors like IBM, CRAY to some end users as well as broad prices published by international news agency in High Performance Computing wire (HPC wire) indicate that the price of PARAM 9000 is 20 per cent to 50 per cent lower than the prices of equivalent machines from CRAY and IBM.

(c) During Supercomputing '94 exhibition, PARAM 9000 has received enthusiastic response. However, to cater to international market, specifically to US, it is essential to have strategic alliances with US companies to market and support PARAM machines.

Status Report of Electronic Industry

353. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a Status Report on Electronic Industry in India;

(b) if so, the sailent features thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFARS, DEPARTMENTS OF ELECTRONICS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Electronics has brought out a 'Guide to Electronic Industry in India as a basic reference source for all information on the Indian Electronics Industry It covers a wide range of information such as:

1. Manufacturers Directory

2. Product Directory

3. Export Product Directory

4. Timeseries Data on Production & Exports.

5. Electronics Units in States etc.

The first edition of the Guide was brought out in 1992 and second edition in 1993.

(c) No further action is propposed to be taken in the matter.

Officials in Kashmir

354. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item published in the Dainik Jagran (Hindi) dated the 18th November 1994 under the Caption "Kashmir ke Rashtra Drohi Afsaron ko Samman dene ki kuchestha";

(b) if so, the number of such cases during the last three years; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (c) Government are aware of the news-item in question. According to information made available by the State Government, a case has been registered under the J & K Officials Secrets Act in connection with missing maps referred in the news item. There is no proposal under consideration of the State Government for the posting of any officer to any sensitive assignment, including any post in the office of Resident Commissioner in Delhi, as mentioned in the report.

The other issues brought out in the report are of a general nature and no specific details have been given. Hence it is not possible to give any reply to the same.

Statement by Ministers on J&K

355. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Ministers have been making controversial and contrary statements over the affairs of the Jammu and Kashmir thereby sending wrong signals not only to the people of the country but to the world;

(b) if so, the reasons for absence of cohesiveness in the utterances of the Union Ministers;

(c) the steps taken to check such uncalled for utterances by the Union Ministers; and

(d) the amount of damage that these utterances have caused to the Nation or are likely to cause in times to come?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): There have been reports from time (a) to (d) There hvae been reports from time to time in the media about statements made by Union Ministers in respect of Jammu and Kashmir. It is not possible or feasible to give any comments in this regard, particularly since no specific instances or issue have been cited in the question. Neither is it possible to give any facts or comments in respect of such issues as contained in part (d) of the question.

Handling of Kashmir affairs by Prime Minister

356. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Government's attention has been to the press reports to the effect that the Kashmir affairs will be handled by him directly, if so what are the implications of this decision and the reasons for shifting the matter from the Home Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): By a notification dated 1 November, 1994, a separate Department of Jammu and Kashmir Affairs has been created, with the Prime Minister as the Minister in-charge. The existing Kashmir Division in the Ministry of Home Affairs has been transferred to the news Department. 16 additional posts, including that of Joint Secretary with the requisite support staff, have also been created with a view to further strengthening the Department.

These steps would enable the Government to devote focussed attention to the situation in the State.